vexatious litigation. It would also debar strangers from setting up false claims to family property and prevent members of a family from trying to set aside any decision of a civil court in respect of their family property on the ground of minority.

The last point touched upon was the working of the Agricultural Loans Regulation and the Rules issued thereunder. The people were not deriving the full benefits intended by the Regulation and the Rules. Applications for loans were generally forwarded for enquiry to the subordinate officers of the Revenue Department, who had to be gratified by the applicants. By the time the enquiries were completed, the year would be far advanced and the budget allotments for loans would have been exhausted. In such cases, the applicants had to renew their applications in the next year and, by that time, the season for making the improvements intended would have passed. The member therefore suggested that it should be ruled that enquiries in respect of applications for loans should be made by an officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar and that they should be completed within a month. Applications pending at the end of any year should first be dealt with in the succeeding year. He suggested also that the maximum amount of loan which a Tahsildar could sanction should be raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Varki Aipora, your representation is noted. But I am afraid most of your proposals are too sweeping to be carried out.

9. Porambokes.

MR. KURIAKOSE CHACKO (*Member, Minachil taluk, Group I*) spoke about the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation by the Revenue Department and also suggested remedies for removing the hardships now entailed. Prior to the last Settlement, the boundaries of registered holdings were specifically defined in the *ozhukus* and the holders were enjoying the lands included within those boundaries. During the last Settlement, mistakes were committed in respect of the boundaries of lands adjoining rivers and canals. The areas mentioned in the old *ozhukus* were located without regard to the boundaries described therein, with the result that parts of registered holdings in the actual possession and enjoyment of the holders were treated as *porambokes*, regardless of the fact that there were permanent improvements such as cocoanut, jack and arecanut trees, many years old. Lands on the same level on the sides of rivers to the extent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 *dandus* in width together with the trees thereon were thus classed as *porambokes*. It was very difficult to obtain copies of *ozhukus* from the Taluk offices for proving the original boundaries. The Taluk authorities generally told applicants for such copies that the *ozhukus* had been destroyed or misplaced. Unlike rich men, it was not possible for the poor ryots to sue the Government for the establishment of their rights and compel the production of the pre-Settlement records because of the difficulties and expenses incidental to such suits. In case the adjoining landholder wished to get the alleged *poramboke* registered, he could not ordinarily succeed especially if he happened to be poor. The poor landholders received a differential treatment from the rich at the hands of the subordinates of the Revenue Department. While the rich always managed to get such *porambokes* registered, the poor invariably failed ; and *poramboke* proceedings were also taken against the latter. The Government had, under date the 31st December, 1926, issued a set of new rules for the better protection of the people's interests and the proper conservancy of *porambokes*. But the difficulties of the ryots were chiefly the result of abuse of power by the subordinates. The superior officers could find neither the time nor the convenience to check the abuse by frequent local inspections. The Revenue subordinates were seldom transferred from their permanent stations; and as the records prepared by them were acted upon by the higher authorities, they had begun systematically to abuse the power vested in them.

In view to remove the defects pointed out, the member suggested the following measures :—

(1) Revenue subordinates should not be retained in any one taluk for more than three years.

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(2) The concessions granted in respect of *poramboke* lands on the banks of rivers and canals in the Neyyattinkara taluk should be extended to similar lands in the Minachil taluk.

(3) The inspection of *porambokes* should be done by the Tahsildar himself.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kuriakose Chacko, the question of encroachments of lands in river beds is one I have always found difficult. Because it so often happens that river beds advance or recede giving rise to lands beyond the demarcation stones. The suggestions that you have now made will be taken up and considered.

10. Registry of lands in the Devicolam Taluk.

MR. E. RAMAN TAMPI (*Member, Devicolam taluk*) said that cardamom cultivation had flourished in the Devicolam taluk from time immemorial. The spice was an article of Government monopoly till about the year 1070. In 1072, the cardamom growing area, *viz.*, the Cardamom Hills Reserve, was constituted into a reserved forest under the Forest Regulation. Nevertheless, from 1080 onwards, lands continued to be granted to the public for cardamom cultivation till 1096, when, for reasons unknown to the public, the Government issued an order prohibiting further registry of lands in the reserve. In issuing that order, the Government ignored the fact that the boundaries of the reserve had not been properly demarcated. As a result thereof many encroachment cases were taken up against cardamom ryots, irrespective of their *bona fide* occupation. That was a source of unnecessary trouble to the Revenue authorities and of hardship and inconvenience to the ryots.

Unlike coffee or tea cultivation, which required extensive clearing, cardamom cultivation could be carried on without any harm to the forest trees and forests. Cardamom cultivation could be made popular by a more liberal policy of registering *puduval* lands. For, it required but small capital and even a poor peasant could go in for it. For a long time past, only non-Travancoreans were engage in the cultivation of cardamoms, and it was only recently that Travancoreans had evinced an interest in the matter and realised the advantages of its cultivation. But the prohibitory order of 1096 had discouraged them in their enterprise.

By encouraging the cardamom industry, the Government would be indirectly promoting local enterprise in tea cultivation. From a cardamom estate run for ten years, a person could earn sufficient capital to open a small tea estate. Cardamom gardens could also be easily converted into tea estates but the reverse was impossible.

In view of the foregoing, the member prayed for the cancellation of the prohibitory order of 1096.

His next suggestion was that the *taravila* on cardamom lands should not be increased. All the existing cardamom growers were non-Travancoreans, and if the *taravila* be enhanced, Travancoreans would be obliged to give up the enterprise.

The member's next suggestion related to the amendment of the existing Cardamom Rules. Those rules were applicable only to lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. There were other lands suitable for cardamom cultivation situated outside the reserve. In view to enable registry of such lands as well, the Cardamom Rules should be amended ; but the existing rate of *taravila viz.*, Bh. Rs. 25 an acre, should be maintained.

Besides areas suitable for cardamom cultivation, there were other vast extents of grass land both inside and outside the Cardamom Hills Reserve. Those lands could, with advantage, be assigned for coffee or tea cultivation, if and when the prohibitory order was cancelled.

The member's last suggestion was about the assignment of house-sites on permanent registry from the Devicolam Cutcherry *poramboke*. Though it comprised a large area people were experiencing difficulty in getting lands registered for house-sites. For the development of the town, it was very necessary to afford every facility to the people to put up permanent buildings for habitation. That could be done only if house-sites were assigned on permanent registry.

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